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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/001175

Re Item V.

The following document is referred to in the present opinion:
US-A-5997362.

1. The document US-A-5997362 discloses cuboid housings which have an attachment face as well as four side surfaces, which are arranged at right angles to it, and a front face, which is opposite the attachment face, as connecting faces, in which at least one electrical connection element and at least one mechanical connection element are provided overall on a number of connecting faces (Figure 1 and the associated description). However, it will be a normal measure for a person skilled in the art to apply these design features to a semiconductor relay and to a functional module.

The subject matter of claim 1 is accordingly not based on any inventive step (Article 33.3 PCT).

2. Claim 1 relates to a semiconductor relay, while the dependent claims 2-12 relate to features of the functional unit, which is not part of the semiconductor relay. The dependent claims are therefore unclear (Article 6 PCT).

The following unclear points have also been noted:

- Claim 2 does not indicate whether this is an electrical or a mechanical connection;
- Based on the wording, Claims 3-7 relate to a use of the semiconductor relay system
- Claims 8-10 attempt to specify the invention by means of the result to be achieved.